

Shrewsbury Police Department

A. Wayne Sampson

Chief of Police

2003 Annual Report

The Shrewsbury Police Department currently has an authorized strength of 42 sworn officers, seven civilian dispatchers, and six civilian clerks, as well as responsibility for oversight of the Animal Control Officer, School Crossing Guards and the ten-town Regional Drug and Anticrime Investigation Unit.

Shrewsbury continues to experience an ever increasing population that has resulted in a substantial increase in our Calls for Service which required in-depth investigation and reporting in order to prepare for prosecution of these criminal cases. Our Criminal Investigations Division continues to expand its investigative abilities by being trained in the latest techniques including DNA evidence, computer and Internet crimes, as well as the increased use of identity fraud.

One area of great concern has been the youth of our community. As elsewhere in the United States, we are experiencing a generation of youth that has unlimited access to the illegal use of alcohol and drugs. This substance abuse, coupled with inadequate parental supervision, has permitted a small group of youths to think that they can intimidate other youth, parents and residents of our community. We have been long committed to working in a positive manner with our youth, parents and our school system to ensure the safety of our community. I want to assure our residents that we are aware of the current situation and are aggressively working to address your concerns.

We continue to work closely with the Shrewsbury School Department on all issues that affect the school environment. The School Resource Officer program has worked well in the High School and we are committed to adding another officer to assist in the Middle Schools. One area that we have devoted substantial investigative time to is that of residency. Unfortunately, there are a number of parents who instruct their children to lie about their residency in order to obtain a free education from the Town of Shrewsbury. While this has the potential of costing us hundreds of thousands of dollars each year, we have successfully assisted in the removal of a large number of students who do not actually live in Shrewsbury.

2003 was a difficult year for personnel shortages within the Police Department. Two officers were out injured for the entire year and we are attempting to fill two vacancies from the State hiring list. We hope to have this problem solved in early 2004. Filling these positions is critical for the delivery of service to our residents and for the safety of our personnel on the street.

We continue to seek out and apply for as many grants as possible and we did receive in excess of \$100,000 during 2003. We received \$38,500 for Community Policing, \$65,000 for the Regional Investigative Task Force, and \$9,600 for Highway Safety.

During 2003 we upgraded our computer software system. This conversion took place in October and involved the conversion of fifteen years worth of data. For this years annual report we will be taking information from two data systems. Future reports will give us greater flexibility in the amount and type of information available to residents.

As in any company, our employees are a critical component. The Town of Shrewsbury can be extremely proud of the performance of our employees. During 2003 the administration took on the task of conducting an extensive employee survey that analyzed the developing trends within the community and the Police Department. Employees were able to express their opinions regarding any issue including department programs, training, equipment, supervision, staffing needs and much more. We have developed an action plan to deal with many of these recommendations and will work on implementation during 2004.

We have been working closely with the Town's Web designer so as to provide useful information on the Police Department Web page. Many changes have already been made and we expect several important changes in early 2004. Please check out our Web page at www.shrewsbury-ma.gov.

We continue to be grateful to all of those individual residents and community organizations that form such important partnerships with the Police Department

including, but not limited to, other Town Departments, ADVISE, Shrewsbury Community Services, and especially our relationship with the Shrewsbury School Department.

We continue to be available to speak to any town organization or group on any issue pertaining to the public safety of our residents or community. We will continue to expand our public information programs such as gun safety, Rape Aggression Defense Training (RAD), Driver Education, and Community Information Brochure Program.

We truly believe in our department motto of “*Serving Our Community With Pride*”.

On the following pages you will find the statistical information regarding the Shrewsbury Police Department for the year 2003.

On behalf of all our employees, we thank our residents for your continued support.

A. Wayne Sampson
Chief of Police

Personnel Summary

Police Officers Hired

Stephen Brady	Lateral Transfer from Wrentham	April 3, 2003
Chad Chysna	Lateral Transfer from Hopedale	April 10, 2003

Police Promotions

Mark Dubois	From Patrolman to Sergeant	October 13, 2003
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Dispatchers Hired

Anthony Gribbons	May 15, 2003
Nicholas Dadalt	December 4, 2003
A. Luke Hamburger	May 1, 2003
Stephen Rice	July 24, 2003

Other Police Employees Hired

Kelly Donahue	Transfer from School Department	September 25, 2003
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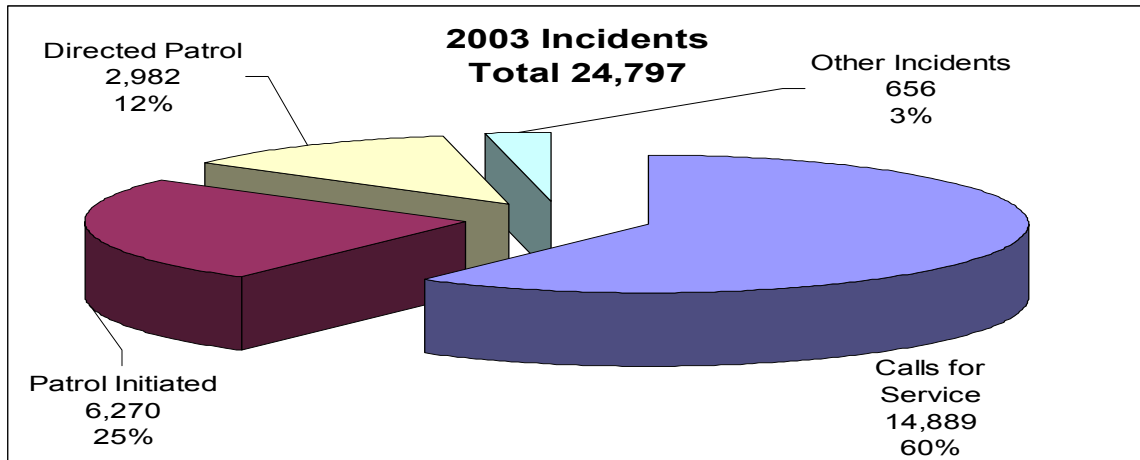
Separated From Service

Dispatcher Stephen Arena	April 19, 2003
Dispatcher Katrina Knipe	June 4, 2003
Dispatcher Joseph Marsh	October 29, 2003
Dispatcher Patrick Sharp	June 26, 2003

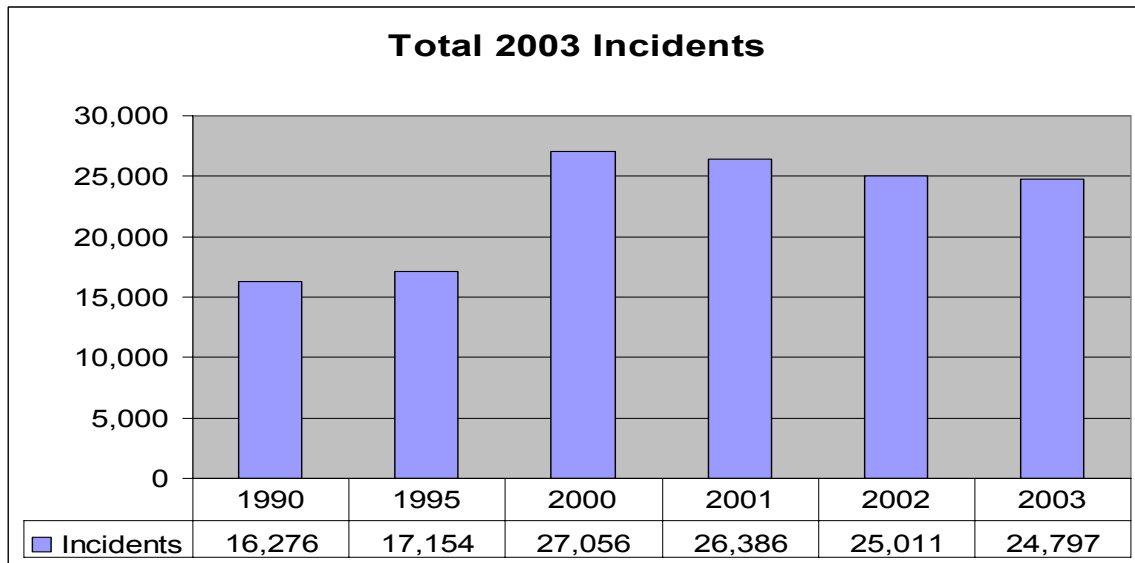
Retirements

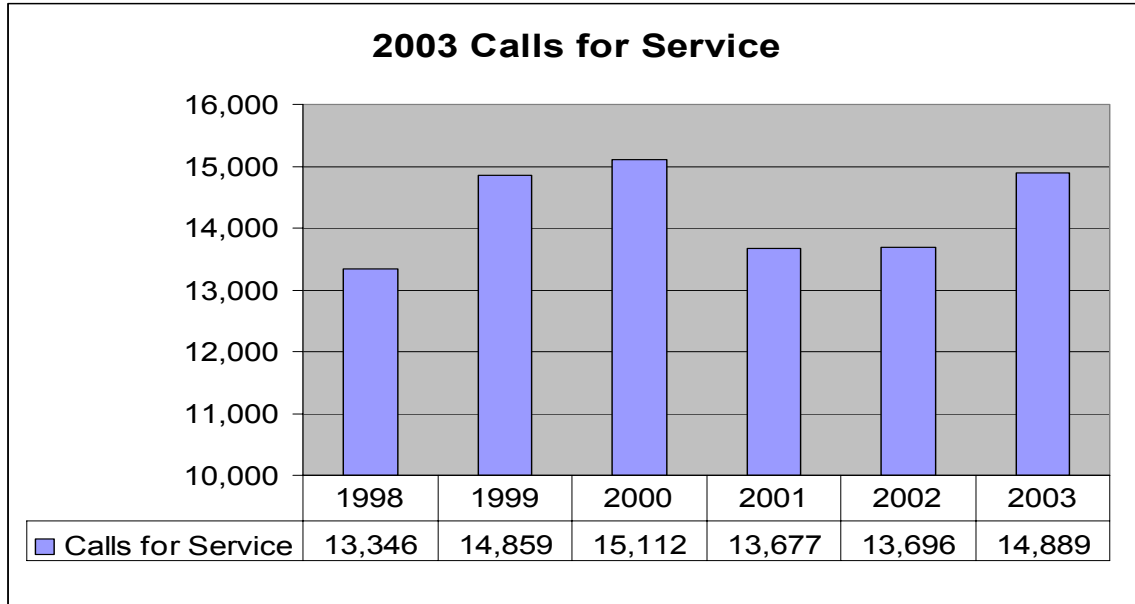
None

Incidents

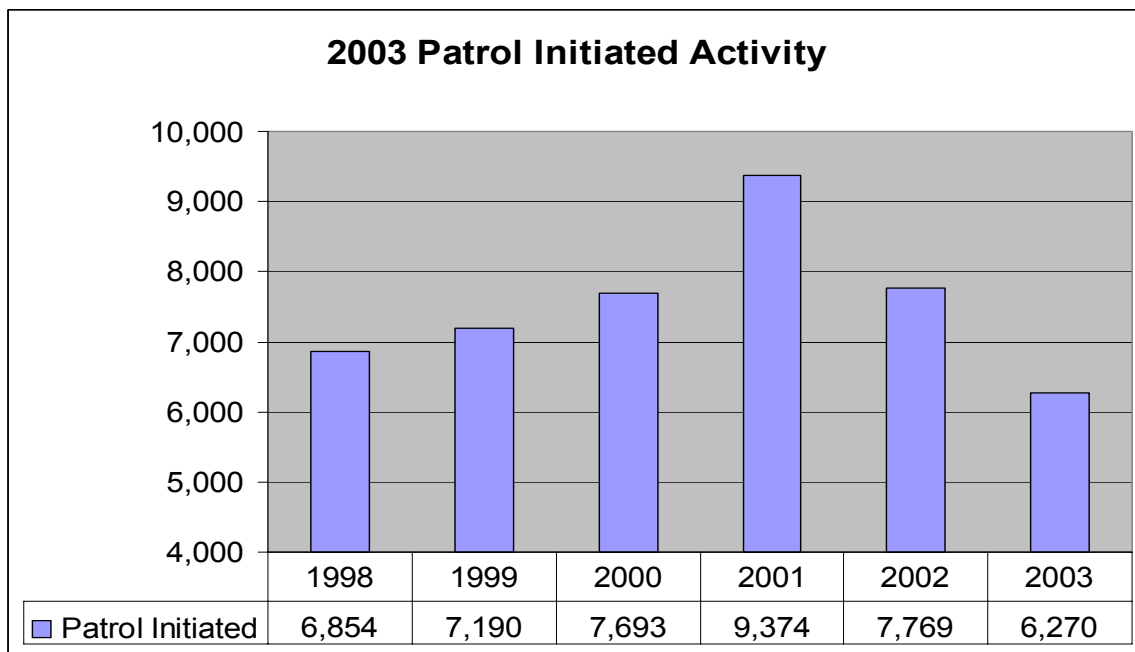


The police department logged 24,797 total incidents for 2003, a reduction of 214 incidents from 2002. 60% of these incidents were calls for service, which were up almost 9% from 2002. 25% of total incidents were logged by officer proactively (Patrol Initiated). Directed patrol activity accounted for 12% of total incidents. These incidents find police personnel working on assigned activity (assigned traffic enforcement locations, traffic and security posts and patrols, etc.) The remaining incidents were for other activities such as investigations, community policing and miscellaneous log entries.





Calls for service are the primary responsibility of the entire police department and particularly the Patrol Division. At 60% of total incident activity, these calls consume the bulk of a patrol officer's time. The remaining time may be used for all other police activities. Calls for service increased slightly by 1,193 calls, 8.7%.



2003 Personnel Summary – Authorized Positions

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1990	1980
Total	55	51	50	46	40	38
Sworn	42	39	38	35	32	32
Chief	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lieutenants	3	3	3	3	2	0
Sergeants	6	5	5	5	6	5
Patrolmen	32	30	29	26	23	26
Dispatch	7	7	7	6	4	2
Clerical	6	5	5	5	4	4
Police/1000	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.4

The 2000 New England Average Police per 1000 population: 2.0

2003 Summary of Criminal Activity

Criminal Incidents				
	2003	2002	2001	2000
Arrests	770	792	867	814
Annoying Phone Calls	144	124	137	152
Arson	2	4	2	2
Assaults	56	73	52	55
B&E Residential	55	45	51	73
B&E Commercial	54	31	37	25
B&E Motor Vehicle	98	57	45	74
Child in Need of Services	9	5	6	5
Disturbances	492	433	585	491
Domestics	131	149	141	152
Hate Crimes	0	0	1	1
Hit and Run	136	152	155	176
Illegal Dumping	41	39	32	34
Larceny	290	374	331	339
Liquor Violation	6	6	12	4
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0
Murder	0	0	0	1
Narcotic	53	53	98	95
Rape	4	4	1	3
Restraining Order Violation	15	22	15	23
Robbery	15	6	5	7
Sex Offences	15	20	20	19
Shoplifting	90	106	72	108
Stolen Vehicles	55	35	54	44
Vandalism	304	257	267	342

2003 Summary of Services Incidents

Service Incidents				
	2003	2002	2001	2000
Accidents (Investigated)	982	1,037	1,028	990
Accidents (Not Investigated)	420	413	393	350
Accidents Fatal	1	5	2	1
Alarms	1,479	1,690	1,763	2,025
Animal Complaints	381	369	436	424
E9-1-1 Calls	4,741	4,936	5,111	5,202
E9-1-1 Transfer to EMS	1,224	1,331	1,159	96
E9-1-1 Transfer to Fire	179	237	251	191
E-9-1-1 Hang Ups	945	918	937	1,033
Escorts	473	576	467	655
Firearms Permits Processed	528	296	223	420
Firearms Safety Graduates	346	172	131	207
Medicals	1,792	1,847	1,652	1,674
Missing Persons (Reported)	51	32	70	73
Parking Tickets	1,187	1,164	1,561	1,428
Protective Custody	143	158	228	293
Preserve the Peace	45	54	83	64
Remove Youths	31	58	49	82
Restraining Orders	476	272	248	227
RUOK Alerts	48	53	45	85
Suicide (Attempted)	14	5	17	24
Suicide	2	2	0	1
Summons Served	1,293	2,543	1,220	1,267
Suspicious Persons/Vehicle	1,376	1,195	1,306	1,277
Unattended Deaths	19	21	17	15
Unsecured Private Buildings	30	72	87	75
Well Being Check	198	180	223	165

2003 Animal Control Incidents

	2003	2002	2001	2000
Dogs Licensed	2773	2,600	2,400	2,280
Dog Violations Cited	48	48	53	27
Dog Bites	19	13	7	5
Cat Bites	4	1	1	1

2002 Summary of Motor Vehicle Incidents

Motor Vehicle Violations				
	2003	2002	2001	2000
Attaching Plates	26	41	33	40
Breakdown Lane	50	94	303	253
Care Starting, Stopping, Turning	56	71	121	109
Defective Equipment	247	261	351	245
Fail to Keep Right	6	10	11	4
Fail to Stop for School Bus	12	23	12	14
Inspection Sticker Violation	562	151	329	504
Junior Operator Passangers	4	8	4	5
Leaving the Scene of an Accident	27	24	40	45
Minor Transporting Alcohol	2	6	1	1
Marked Lanes	134	98	105	102
Motor Vehicle Homicide	0	1	2	2
Operating Under Influence Alcohol	61	61	60	55
Operating Under Influence Drugs	7	2	6	2
Operating Without a License	71	94	127	115
Operating to Endanger	28	44	33	27
Red Light	465	673	859	573
Refusal to Stop for Police	11	12	16	10
Seat Belt/Child Restraint	520	469	14	374
Speeding	1,491	2,595	3,082	1,845
Stop Sign	86	208	212	163
Suspended/Revoked Operator	149	233	222	202
Unregistered Motor Vehicle	344	148	686	243
Uninsured Motor Vehicle	140	40	94	190
Using Without Authority	8	9	13	15
Other Miscellaneous Violations	1,128	2,177	1,449	994
Total Offenses	5,635	7,553	8,185	6,132
Total Citations	4,347	6,141	6,819	5,041

Fiscal Year 2003 funds generated:

Fines paid for parking tickets during 2003 amounted to \$22,900

Motor vehicle fines returned to the Town for citations issued in 2003 amounted to \$246,827.85

Grant Summary

Our agency continues to aggressively seek State and Federal grants to ensure the progressive, quality delivery of police services. During 2003, the Shrewsbury Police Department was awarded more than \$ 114,600 in grants that were used to provide the agency with resources and programs, which would not have been otherwise available.

Regional Drug and Counter Crime Task Force	\$ 65,000.00
Community Policing	\$ 38,500.00
Traffic Enforcement "Click it or Ticket"	\$ 9,600.00
Total	\$ 113,100.00